THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

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JANUARY CLUB MEETINGS ON THE 6th & 20th 8 P.M. AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE PERRY SHANKLE CO., 1801 S. FLORES ST.

DOOR PRIZES

At the 2 December meeting the following door prizes were won by W5OZF, a $2.50 gift certificate from Radio & TV Parts Co.; K5TMJ, a $2.50 gift certificate from Sherman Electronics; K5SJB, a $2.50 gift certificate from Bill Case Sound; and W5JAJ won the Printed Circuit board of the Month from Irving Electronics.

QRZ THE EDITOR

We have been asked by the San Antonio Radio Club to write a few words about conduct on the air by fellow amateurs. It seems that there are some who let their personal feelings overcome their better judgment. They discuss subjects and say things that they wouldn't say to a man's face or in his presence, yet he may be there listening to every word. Serious discussions of politics, religion, or a man's homeland, we feel to be subjects that have no place in a QSO.

Recently, two hams were discussing a neighbor country and one of them remarked that he had a very low opinion of the country and its people. As a free American he is entitled to his opinion, but should it be broadcast so that hams in other countries can hear? Our country has lost many friends in the lands south of the border because of the way American tourists have acted and things they have said. No one will deny that the U S is the greatest place in the world and there are many countries that envy us. By our standards, many of these countries are primitive. Criticism will do nothing to help them. They know their problems. Understanding will contribute to better relations between our respective countries.

As hams we have the greatest opportunity offered any man. Our license is a "passport to the world." We canvisit a person in almost any country without having to leave our own home. The impressions we make on others during our contacts on the air will form his opinion not only of you, but of 180,000,000 other Americans. It takes only one "ugly American" to destroy what other men have spent years to build. In todays world, real friends are important. Let's make every QSO a friendship contact even if it is ony across town. You never know who may be listening.

72, M. D. K5PKX

VHF AND UP

Thanks are due K5PKX, M. D. Harris, for writing last month's column while your reporter was in Germany.

While November was sneaking by in the declining sunspot cycle, on the 12th and 13th the sun let loose with an eruption which appears to be the greatest ever recorded in history. The resulting magnetic storms were the most severe of the last decade.

It is to be remembered by the VHF and HF man awoke that what allows the maximum useable frequency (MUF), to rise past 50 mc. is the continual presence and activity of many sunspots which produce increased ionization of the F layer at a 200-300 mile height. This occurs at a sunspot peak.

When an individual sunspot belches

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forth matter, the ionosphere is momentarily ionized at a greatly increased level as low down as the D layer, some 20 miles up. This means that not only is there increased absorption, but because of the lower reflecting layer, 20 hops might be required instead of 1. In this manner all communications from HF up are disrupted.

To point out the ferociousness of the Nov 60 solar outburst, the geomagnetic activity index is used. An index less than 5 is very quiet, greater than 25 is definitely disturbed, and during the sunspot maximum in late '57, the index rose as high as 137. On 13 Nov., the index was recorded as 280, the highest ever observed! And this 3 years after the sunspot peak!

The December daytime MUF has been around 45 mc. to So. America and 41 mc. to northern Canada and the DEWLINE area. Reception of 2-hop F layer TV signals from Europe has not been reported this winter, they've been received every winter in San Antonio since '56.

While in Germany it was interesting to hear a 144 mc. amateur play classical music over the air, as used to be permitted many years ago in the U. S. when the lower bands were not crowded.

On German TV there are many U. S. shows which have had German dubbed-in with perfect lip synchronization. A hilarious event occussed when an Indian crawled over the edge of a cliff in "Wagon Train," supped his hand before his eyes and said, "Was ist los?" Have a good New Year.

Cal Graf, W5LFM

DX NOTES

Seasons Greetings! And may 1961 bring you a stocking full of new countries. Sometimes it seems that so many new ones have been added in the last year that we can't catch up for falling behind. Not to be different, 1961 is starting off with more of the same. ARRL Bulletin *777* announced 3 additions to the official country list. They are Senegal Republic (FF8) and Mali Republic (FF8) for QSO's after June 20, 1960; and the Kaliningradsk Region of the USSR (UA2) for QSO's after November 15, 1945. The Mali Federation has been deleted from the list; but if you worked it, credit will be given for either Senegal or Mali Republic as applicable. The new UA2 country will bear some checking into. If you have ever worked a UA2 in the past 15 years, check that QSL card; odds are good that it will be from Kaliningradsk and you will have a new one confirmed. ARRL will ac-

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cept QSL's for DXCC credit from any of these new ones after March 1, 1961.

Mr. Sunspot Number continues on his relentless trek downhill. Although good openings appeared on 10 and 15 meters during the November CQ DX Contest, these higher frequency bands opened later, closed earlier, and showed more QSB than we have had in the past 3 years. 20 meters shows the effects too, not opening for DX until after 7 AM and closing about 10 PM. Keep anu ear open on 40 however; Europe, Africa and Asia are being heard now with good signals by the night-owls.

Did you ever wonder just how many radio countries there are to work? Looking back through the post-war QST's I counted 318. A new DX'er startingstarting now can't work that many though, because of numerous deletions. If my research is accurate—and I don't guarantee it—the list of countries no longer with us includes VO1 Newfoundland, VO6 Labrodor, ZD4 Gold Coast, 9S4 Saarland, I1 Trieste, UN1 Karelia, EK Tangier, FN8 French India, FI8 Indo-China, OO5 Belgian Congo, I5 Italian and VO6 Britisn Somalilands and PK1-4 Java and Sumatra. These are each still creditable to your DXCC if your QSL dates back to the times when these places were accorded separate status; but if you missed them then, they are gone forever. Looks like ZL2GX, KV4AA, W6AM and W1FH —all old timers—will be at the top of the DX list for many years to come since only about 304 separate countries are now available to the newcommers. (What, *only* 304?) Plan now to get into the ARRL DXX Contest in February and March; and credit that score to the San Antonio Radio Club. BCNU.

73, Len, W'LGG

BOOTLEGGERS AT WORK

The following letter has een received by the Exciter and needs no explanation.

Dear Gentlemen:

Being in the Air Force keeps me from being active on the Amateur bands, as I am usually away from my QTH in San Antonio. I returned from England recently and shortly thereafter received a card from WPE5ATX SWM from Hattiesburg, Mississippi who informs me that he is a registered shortwave monitor and picked up someone using my call sign (K5SPS) on the 3.8 Mc band, Sept. 30, 1960 at 10 EST using CW signals. His receiver is a Zenith Trans-Oceanic. Anything that you can do to discourage someone from getting reported to FCC, will be greatly Appreciated.

In 1 year and 9 months I hope to complete my Air Force career and become active with the gang.

Thank you kindly, 73

Mike Lucio
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40 METER DOINGS

Iva (W5SYL) and George (W5-MTQ) Haley formerly of Wichita Falls have been transferred to San Antonio. George is with the FAA. They expect to be back on the air before too long. Marion (W5DBN) is back on 40 phone and cw after returning from Europe.

Conditions on 40 have been real peculiar lately as they have been on the other bands. The solar flares have caused all kinds of things to happen. The other day I was working Ralph (CO2ZQ) when David (HR2DK) in Honduras broke in on SSB. We had a nice little round-table.

If yo uare looking for mobile contacts on 40, try K5OCW, K5DKM, W5DIP, W5FYO, W5OMR or K5-BQF. They seem to always be on the air.

John (W5VKK) is being transferred to New Orleans. Some of the calls heard on the band lately are: W5-UAW, K5YHX, K5VFC, K5VFD, K5VRO, K5WQG, W5FAP, & W5-MZH.

73, Aubren, K5MOF

NEW WWV SERVICE

WWV will broadcast as a regular service on 1 Jan. 61 a 36 bit 100 pulse per second time code giving Universal Time in seconds, minutes, hours and day of the year; during the second and third minutes of each 5 minute period. The code was broadcast experimently from April to August 1960 over WWV.

GUTTER DOPE

Art Hasbrook, W5BWM, is returning to the air after being off for a couple of years. Art has built a new transmitter and is in the process of completing a new receiver. Now there is a real Ham. The oldtimers may remember Art's former call 5YL and 5CCF that was issued in theearly 30's when he built the station for the San Antonio Jr. College. I know his friends will be glad to hear him again and many of the newcomers will enjoy meeting him on the air or eyeball.

Bob Wilson, W5JHH, and family have moved to California. Congratulations to Bob on the promotion.

The November issue of Readers Digest had a very nice article about amatuer radio. Your comments to the publishers of these articles will give us more of these.

Friends and members of the San Antonio Radio Club met at the home of K5VCR to give W5VPQ & W5-TSE a big send-off. George has accepted a job with GE in Lynchburg, Virginia. The red station wagon with all the antennas will certainly be missed in Texas.

W4ANZ/5, Andy, now has a KWM-2 on SSB.

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We are sorry to report Silent Keys for Harry Fritz, K5HEU.

Clarence Warner, W5HIV has a new Drake receiver.

Thirty five gals were present for the TYLRUN party which was held here Nov. 5th. K5BNQ from Okla., K5YTN, K5GYZ & K5BWM came from New Mexico. The Brownfield girls invited the group to visit their fair city next year.

Glad to hear that W5CTL, John, is back on Six meters with a new rig.

Newest Certificate: FREE LOADERS CERTIFICATE is sponsored by K4RNS & K4RNR. All one has to do is submit written proof of free loading, from 10 different hams, of a meal or refreshments of any kind since 1 January 1960. (Anyone qualify?)

Question of the month! When will Sally get on Six? Jack, W5JAJ, is getting a lot of QRM because he has not completed the XYL's rig.

Robbie, K5SJB, has a new hobby—collecting rocks. Seems he got interested during the Arts & Crafts Show a couple of months back. Now instead of asking for a QSL card he asks for a rock. Pretty sneaky way of getting a good collection don't you think?

This week Bob, W5RSD has a new Collins 32S1 and a Drake receiver. Wonder what he will have next week?

Some of the new faces seen at this years SARC Christmas Party were K5UTO, W5JAJ, K5OCW, K5GUA, K5TMJ, K5PKX, W5KJ and KN5-FRO.

Congratulations to Kathrine Pirie, K5TSZ, on recently receiving her General License. Kath is a schoolteacher and her OM is not a ham but he is a stamp collector.

We would like to urge all amateurs to get in the Christmas Spirit by making their stations available during the holidays, by handling traffic especially phone patches from the servicemen overseas. This being a military city there is always a great demand at this time of year. Your Christmas will be much happier by bringing a loved one's voice into the families home. Will you help?

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